

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06328 111610Z
ACTION ARA-14

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P 111545Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6631

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6328

ARA FOR MGT FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR, AFSP, SHUM, BL
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CONSULAR STAFF-CONTINUED NEED FOR TDY
OFFICER

REF: (A) STATE 184757, (B) LA PAZ 6284

1. IN CONSENTING TO BLOHM'S ATTENDANCE AS URGED BY DEPT,
I WISH RE-EMPHASIZE EMBASSY'S PROBLEM IN STAFFING CONSULAR
SECTION. WE WILL BE ABLE MANAGE WEEK OF AUG. 15 DURING
BLOHM'S ABSENCE BECAUSE FORTUNATELY CONSULAR AGENT MCKENNEY
RETURNS TO SANTA CRUZ FROM LEAVE IN U.S. AUG 15 AND WE
WILL NOT, RPT NOT HAVE TO KEEP ONE OF OUR OFFICERS THERE.

2. OUR STAFFING PATTERN CALLS FOR TWO REGULAR OFFICERS IN
CONSULATE, WHICH WE NOW MAINTAIN (WITH ONE ON LOAN UNTIL
MURPHY'S ARRIVAL FROM POL/ECOM SECTION). IN ADDITION, WE
HAVE TDY VICE CONSUL RANDOLPH UNTIL AUGUST 26. NEXT MONTH
OR TWO, PROBABLY UNTIL END SEPTEMBER OR MID-OCTOBER, WILL
BE CRITICAL IN MOVING PRISONER CASES THROUGH COURTS, SINCE
BY THEN THERE IS FIGHTING CHANCE THAT IN ALL, RPT ALL,
"OLD" CASES (THOSE IN JAIL AT TIME NEW NARCOTICS LAW PROMUL-
GATED) TRIALS MAY BE COMPLETED. WE NEED TO FOLLOW THESE
CLOSELY ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS PLUS USUAL VISITS TO PRISONS
AND ANSWERING VOLUMINOUS CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPT, CONGRESS
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AND PARENTS, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE REGUALR CONSULAR WORKLOAD,
WHICH IS ON THE INCREASE. VISITS TO COCHABAMBA WILL HAVE
TO BE KEPT UP SINCE WE STILL HAVE NO CONSULAR AGENT THERE
AND ILLNESS OF JOAN THOMAS (LA PAZ 6275) ADDS TO THE
IMPORTANCE OF THESE TRIPS AND THE BURDEN. IT IS UNFORTUNATE,
BUT A FACT OF LIFE THAT WE PROBABLY SPEND MORE TIME REPORTING
AND TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT THE PRISONERS THAN WE SPEND ON

WORK OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO PRISONERS.

4. IN ORDER MAINTAIN LEVEL OF SERVICES TO PRISONERS WHICH DEPT DEMANDS I URGENTLY NEED AT MINIMUM TDY REPLACEMENT SOONEST FOR DAVID RANDOLPH, WHO HAS DONE EXCELLENT JOB. REPLACEMENT REQUIRES 3/3 SPANISH AND SOME CONSULAR EXPERIENCE. AS DEPT AWARE FROM LA PAZ 3816, WE CONCERNED OVER LANGUAGE CAPABILITY IN CONSULAR SECTION, EVEN THOUGH BLOHM IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS WITH SPANISH. I URGE DEPT CONSIDER ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL VICE-CONSUL, WITH AT LEAST 3/3 SPANISH, TO THIS POST AS MOST PRACTICAL AND EFFICIENT WAY OF COPING WITH DEMANDS OF PRISONER PROBLEM. EVEN AS RECENTLY AS LAST MAY, WHEN PARM PREPARED, WE COULD NOT HAVE FORESEEN MANHOURS, LEGWORK AND TRAVEL NOW NEEDED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS PLACED UPON US. IT MAY BE HOPED, THOUGH IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN, THAT BY THE TIME BLOHM ASSIGNMENT ENDS IN JANUARY 1979 PRISONER SITUATION MAY BE STABILIZED AND EMBASSY CAN MANAGE SITUATION WITH TWO CONSULAR POSITIONS IN LA PAZ, CONSULAR AGENT (OR VICE CONSUL) IN SANTA CRUZ AND--HOPEFULLY-- CONSULAR AGENT IN COCHABAMBA.

5. APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON TDY REPLACEMENT FOR RANDOLPH.

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Message Attributes

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